

30 JUNE 2018

**SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RESPONSE**

Good Day Sir,

Please see my responses below to your points of inquiry listed in bold.

**Why did you not want the Commanding Officer and the Sergeant Major to attend the Company Ball?**

I'm confused by this question; we were honored to have battalion leadership join for the event, which in part contributed to how disappointed we were at the behavior.

**Why did you make a awkward comment to the Battalion Sergeant Major before the Company Ball started? Witnesses said that the Sergeant Major tried to shake your hand and you replied something to the flavor of "I'm busy getting YOUR Marine Corps Ball together." Can you please elaborate on your exact verbiage you used?**

I dispute this. This would have been incredibly inappropriate and disrespectful, and would not be something I would ever even consider doing under any circumstance. I recall welcoming them in as a group and directing the party to the left so they could check in their coats. Though caught off-guard at their early arrival, I mentally noted some appeared to have been drinking prior to arrival based on their observed behavior and attempted to be as welcoming and respectful as possible nonetheless.

**Did this awkward exchange with the Battalion Sergeant Major occur before or after the comments to Mrs. Hubbard?**

The party arrived prior to making comments to Mrs. Hubbard, but I don't agree with the characterization of the initial exchange.

**Did the Marine Corps Ball go over budget?**

The final cost was slightly under budget, and extra funds were set aside in a unit-controlled account for future events.

**Did you complete an LOI for the event on your own initiative or did the Battalion Sergeant Major order you complete a LOI with a plan B in case the venue changed?**

Consistent with Marine Corps doctrine, the team completes an LOI for the ball event annually; the Battalion Sergeant Major concurrently requested a copy several months prior to the event, and multiple venues were set aside for consideration in the event that plans changed.

**Is it a reasonable expectation that a Lieutenant Colonel is supposed to assist with the set-up of the Marine Corps Ball venue?**

No, and this was this ever an expectation—neither implied nor actualized.

**If (b)(6) was reaching a high level of intoxication, why didn't you as a Staff Noncommissioned Officer pull him aside and speak with him?**

I raised the issue with team leadership, and there was an understanding that intoxication at a Marine Corps Ball was not unusual, that if it escalated Battalion leadership present would be the most appropriate first line of response. The full scope of the behavior was not fully realized until the team did a debrief at the following drill.

**Did any of the Officers and Staff Noncommissioned Officers present pull the (b)(6) aside and speak with him about his behavior?**

I can't confirm if this was the case. During May drill (b)(6) stated that he noticed the behavior and took immediate action the following day.

**Why do you feel that the Company didn't address the issues of the allegations?**

The team sent a request up through the chain of command for an apology for the inappropriate behavior. To-date, none of the spouses or families at the event have received an apology to my knowledge.

**Why do you feel that the Battalion didn't address the issues of the allegations?**

I don't want to speculate at the Battalion's lack of action on this matter.

**Did (b)(6) address the Marines about the allegations during your May drill weekend?**

Yes.

**Did (b)(6) offer to call spouses and guests of the Ball to apologize?**

Yes, though to my knowledge this has still not occurred.

**Did you offer (b)(6) a cigar in May during drill weekend?**

At (b)(6) stated desire to get to know the team better, I offered that he join us at the conclusion of the day for our team gathering; he was invited, and stated that he had to travel that night and couldn't join, but offered to have the (b)(6) join in his absence. (b)(6) did later join to great affection of the men. With all due respect, this does not seem germane to the harassment that occurred at the ball.

**What happened over the May drill weekend to make you go from everything is okay on Friday to dropping an Application for Request Mast on the following Monday?**

During (b)(6) address to the team, he stated several points that were unknown to the team, including that he took immediate action the day after the ball against individuals with behavior in question. Based on this new information, I felt it necessitated higher review from an objective party to determine if further actions were required; it appeared to me to be a conflict of interest to have (b)(6) determine if his own actions were sufficient. At this point, the team still received no apology or acknowledgement of wrong-doing, and it was nearly six months later, so it was my moral judgement that compelled me to seek additional review.

(b)(6)